

REMARKS

The above amendments to the above-captioned application along with the following remarks are being submitted as a full and complete response to the Official Action dated September 12, 2006. In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to give due consideration to this application, to indicate the allowability of the claims, and to pass this case to issue.

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-10 and 20 are under consideration in this application. Claims 21-30 are being cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicant hereby submits that no new matter is being introduced into the application through the submission of this response.

Formality Rejection

Claim 23 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Since claim 23 is being cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, the rejection thus becomes moot.

Allowed Subject Matter

Claims 1-10 and 20 remain allowed.

Prior Art Rejections

Claims 21-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Iskiyan et al. (US 5,692,155), and claims 22-28 and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Iskiyan in view of Hirakawa et al. (USPN 2004/0267829). Since claims 21-30 are being cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, the rejections thus become moot.

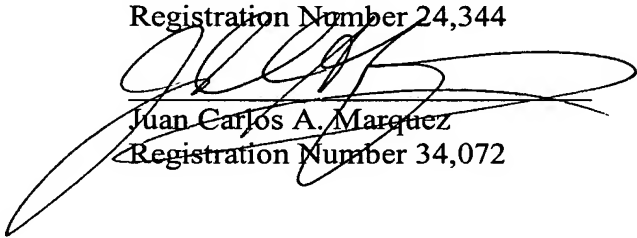
Conclusion

In view of all the above, Applicants respectfully submit that certain clear and distinct differences as discussed exist between the present invention as now claimed and the prior art references upon which the rejections in the Office Action rely. These differences are more than sufficient that the present invention as now claimed would not have been anticipated nor rendered obvious given the prior art. Rather, the present invention as a whole is distinguishable, and thereby allowable over the prior art.

Favorable reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully solicited. Should there be any outstanding issues requiring discussion that would further the prosecution and allowance of the above-captioned application, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's undersigned representative at the address and phone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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